



# City of Malden

Malden City Hall  
215 Pleasant Street  
Malden, MA 02148

## Meeting Minutes - Final Finance Committee

*Councillor McDonald, Chair*  
*Councillor Colon-Hayes, Vice-Chair*  
*Councillor Condon*  
*Councillor Crowe*  
*Councillor Spadafora*  
*Councillor Winslow*

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Tuesday, May 13, 2025

6:00 PM

City Hall, Room 105  
215 Pleasant Street  
Malden, MA 02148

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Watch the meeting with Teams: <https://tinyurl.com/4jusvtyy>

### Roll Call

**Present:** 6 - Councillor Carey McDonald, Councillor Karen Colon Hayes, Paul Condon, Peg Crowe, Craig Spadafora and Stephen Winslow

Also Present: Council President O'Malley, Councillors Taylor, Linehan

Please Note: Councillor Spadafora is in attendance via Teams.

Alicia McNeil-City Solicitor

Charles Ranaghan-Controller-CFO

Dan Grover-Treasurer

Maria Luise-Mayor's Office

Councillor McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

This meeting will have audio and video via Teams.

### Minutes to be Approved

[234-25](#)

Minutes of April 15, 2025 to be approved.

**A motion was made by Councillor Condon, seconded by Councillor Crowe, that the Committee Minutes of April 15, 2025 be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

### Business

The Finance Committee will meet to review the process and schedule for the 2026 budget appropriation order.

*Councillor McDonald thanked Charles Ranaghan, Controller, CFO and Dan Grover, Treasurer for coming to the Finance Committee Meeting to discuss the annual budget process. It was noted that the sequence of events is slightly different this year.*

*Mr. Ranaghan explained that up until the budget is referred to the committee, there is not much to discuss outside of scheduling Tuesday night meetings before June 30th. The focus will be on high-level budget drivers such as the school department, health insurance, and pension mentioned that after this meeting, the mayor will present the*

*budget proposal and answer questions, which will be available for viewing on the live stream and discussed the timing of the public hearing, with a suggestion to hold it earlier to allow for public input before the final vote. Historically, the public hearing was held on the last Tuesday when the Council voted on the budget.*

*Councillor McDonald outlined the timeline for budget approval, aiming to vote on the budget by June 17th. The public hearing and committee vote are scheduled for June 10th. It was noted that the council should not plan to vote on the budget on the last Tuesday of June to allow for buffer time. The goal is to have the budget ready for a vote on June 17th, providing time for any necessary adjustments.*

*Mr. Ranaghan discussed the importance of inviting the Schools Department to present their budget due to its significant portion of the overall budget. This department is consistently invited every year.*

*Councillor McDonald discussion about inviting other departments such as police, fire, DPW, and the library. The decision would be based on the council's interest and the need to discuss specific budget items.*

*In the past an invite has been sent out to all department heads to come before the Finance Committee if they would like. It was suggested to add additional meetings if necessary to accommodate discussions with various departments. The council members were asked to provide feedback on which departments they are particularly interested in hearing from. Councillor McDonald will reach out to Jen Spadafora, Vice Chair of the School Committee to find a mutual date to invite them to come before the finance committee.*

*Mr. Ranaghan highlighted that this year's budget is one of the worst financially in 15 years, with expenses far exceeding revenues. The budget is balanced using one-time resources, but difficult decisions will be needed in the coming years. It was noted that while there are no immediate cuts or layoffs, the following year will require addressing significant financial challenges. The council will need to start working on solutions to manage these challenges effectively.*

*Councillor McDonald will compile and share suggestions from the long-term financial planning group on how to raise revenue and cut back expenses before the budget season.*

*Mr. Ranaghan will gather and organize all previously presented financial information and trends from the past five years to aid in budget discussions.*

## Other Business

## Adjournment

**A motion was made by Councillor Winslow, seconded by Councillor Condon, that this meeting be adjourned at 6:35 PM. The motion carried unanimously.**

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[www.cityofmalden.org/captions](http://www.cityofmalden.org/captions)